

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**One-Year Acquisition/Transfer of 8,000 Acre Feet of San Joaquin Exchange
Contractors Water Authority Water to Meet South of Delta Refuges
Incremental Level 4 Water Supply Needs for Water Year 2010**

FONSI-10-34-MP

Recommended by:



Date:

9/8/2010

Brad Hubbard
Natural Resource Specialist
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Concurred by:

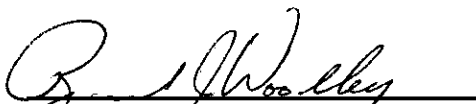


Date:

Sept. 8, 2010

Lee Mao
Program Manager
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Approved by:



Date:

Sept. 8, 2010

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BACKGROUND

In accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the *One-Year Acquisition/Transfer of 8,000 Acre Feet of San Joaquin Exchange Contractors Water Authority Water to Meet South of Delta Refuges Incremental Level 4 Water Supply Needs for Water Year 2010*, dated August, 2010 and is incorporated by reference.

Under the Proposed Action, Reclamation proposes to acquire 8,000 acre-feet (AF) of Incremental Level 4 Water this year (2010) for wetland habitat management purposes. The Proposed Action is being undertaken pursuant to, and will be in full compliance with, Section 3406(d) (106 Stat. 4706) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA), which authorizes new water supply contracts for fish and wildlife purposes. The Proposed Action does not involve any construction activities and would not cause any land use changes.

FINDINGS

In accordance with NEPA, the Mid-Pacific Regional Office of Reclamation has found that the proposed water acquisition/transfer is not a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Consequently, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This determination is supported by the following factors:

1. **Water Resources:** Under the Proposed Action, the water will be delivered to the various South of Delta Refuges in accordance with the requirements and procedures established in the Water Acquisition Program. This water will be delivered to the Refuges from the middle of September (as early as September 10) until the end of the year (no later than December 31). Water rights held by the United States or others will not be altered. The Proposed Action involves using only existing facilities to convey the transfer water. The Proposed Action will not cause any refuge or wetland management changes. The Proposed Action will have a minor beneficial effect on water quality. As a result, the Proposed Action will not adversely impact surface water resources or groundwater resources.

2. **Land Use:** The Proposed Action does not involve any construction activities and will not cause any land use changes; therefore, the Proposed Action will not adversely impact land use. The benefits to land use include the ability of the Refuges to maintain wetlands within the project area at times when other water supplies are not available.

3. Biological Resources: The Proposed Action will be beneficial to the area's biological resources, particularly migratory waterfowl. No adverse impacts to biological resources will occur, including special-status species, as water will be delivered via existing conveyance systems in accordance with all current applicable regulatory requirements. Reclamation has determined that the Proposed Action will not affect special-status species or migratory bird species with the potential to occur in the project area of effect. Therefore, no further consultation is required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

4. Indian Trust Assets: The Proposed Action does not affect any Indian Trust Assets (ITA). The nearest ITA is the Santa Rosa Rancheria approximately twenty miles southeast of the project location; therefore there would be no adverse effects to ITAs as a result of the Proposed Action.

5. Cultural Resources: No ground disturbing activities, including excavation or construction are required to convey the water. This administrative action is not the type of activity that has the potential to affect historic properties pursuant to the regulations at 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1). As a result of this no potential to affect historic properties determination, no cultural resources will be impacted as a result of the Proposed Action.

6. Environmental Justice: Due to the nature of the Proposed Action (i.e., land use and agriculture would remain unchanged), there will be no adverse effects to minority or disadvantaged populations.

7. Climate Change: Since the Proposed Action will have no construction element and will use existing facilities within the range of normal operations, it will have no effect on climate change.

8. Cumulative Impacts: The proposed short-term supply of Incremental Level 4 water will not result in any additions to irrigated lands or otherwise induce land use changes. Rather, the intended effect is to maintain current land use and prevent deterioration of existing wildlife habitat; therefore, there are no anticipated cumulative effects resulting from the Proposed Action.